

Incorporating Blogging into your Curriculum

Suggested Preparation

Decide on the purpose and/or goals for incorporating Blogs into your curriculum

Decide on Class blog or Individual student blogs

- Class blog- student can be assigned a different day to post
- Individual blogs – weekly or monthly posts, post when assigned, etc.

Set up Gmail Account

Google Reader:

- 1) Set up a Google account and set up your Google Reader
- 2) Add Subscriptions: Search for blogs you'd like to add to your Reader
- 3) Start to explore the Reader for Blog posts that you'd like to discuss in class. Click on "Add Start"
- 4) Two ways to view reader
 - a. Expanded or List View
 - b. Click on dark blue headline to link to the original blog

Set up Blogger & Assignments

- See a technology trainer for more assistance
- Create and Copy Rubric
- Teacher posts 3 to 4 posts to provide examples for students
- Give them a list of 10 types of blog options "top 10 ways to blog", tie back to the topics the class is studying.

Set up a Google Group or Moodle (optional)

Create a calendar – know what date you want to start the Blog

Sample Curriculum Layout
Building Blogging Knowledge in the Classroom

Day 1

- **LAB Activity: GMAL**(15 Minutes)
 - Set up gmail accounts

Day 2

- **Classroom Activity: Google Reader Intro** (15-30 Minutes)
 - Open Google Reader on overhead and introduce the concept to the class.
 - Show a blog or two to the class relating to your curriculum. Show how to navigate through the reader.
 - Show how to link to a blog and the importance of Links/Pings
 - Tell students to keep their eye open for Blogs that would be useful to the class.
 - GOOGLE GROUP/MOODLE INTRO (optional)
- **LAB Activity: Setting up Google Reader** (this can be moved to day 8) (30 Minutes)
 - HOW TO ADD SUBSCRIPTIONS
 - Students search for 4-5 blogs to add to their reader relating to the curriculum
 - Have students add blogs of their own personal interest (sports, fashion, news, business, etc)
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Day 3

- **Classroom Activity: Blogs, Reading, Debating, Commenting (30-45 Minutes)**
 - Show Blog PowerPoint (What is blogging/Types of Blog Examples)
 - What are blogs? Why are pings important? How do you comment on a blog?
 - Review Google Reader & Blogs
 - Review navigating Reader
 - Read a few blogs (teacher has previously starred items)
 - Decide on one to read/debate/respond
 - Have student split according to their view of the debate. Have each group write a short "comment" to the blog post (participation points)
- **LAB Activity or Homework:** (15-25 Minutes)
 - Have students check Google Reader. Example: Print out blog post, Star 3 blog posts, etc.

Day 4

- **Classroom Activity: Debating & Comments** (30 Minutes)
 - Show students another "star" blog post from the teacher's Google Reader.
 - Small group discussion, debate it, group response/written comment (2 comments, 1 from each side)
 - As a class, comment on the authors blog. Use the class input to write a professional and appropriate comment.

Day 5

- **Classroom Activity: REVIEW** (15 Minutes)
 - Look up last blog and see if the author responded.
 - Discuss or Review Rules of Blogging and make a poster.
 - Professional writing/etiquette
 - Show do & do not's

Day 5 Cont.

- **LAB Activity or Homework:** (15 Minutes)
 - Students check Google Reader

Day 6

- **LAB Activity: Partner comments in Google Document** (30-45 Minutes)
 - Give students a link to a blog post
 - Students create a Google Document that is shared with teacher & partner.
 - Each person reads it and they write a partner response in the Google Doc
 - Teacher reads and helps edit Google Doc comments
- Have students check Google Reader (could be an assignment or HW)

Day 7

- **LAB Activity: Individual comments in Google Document** (30-45 Minutes)
 - Give students a link to a blog post
 - Students create a Google Document that is shared with teacher.
 - Each person reads it and they write a response in the Google Doc
 - Teacher reads and helps edit Google Doc comments (Optional: add peer review)
- Have students check Google Reader (could be an assignment or HW)

Day 8 & 9: (Optional)

- **LAB Activity: Writing Blogs Post in Groups on Google Docs**
 - Group assignments first (Did not do this because of time constraints)
 - Provide *Rubric* and assign individual roles
- **LAB Activity: Writing Blog Post Individually Assignment**
 - Similar *rubric* to group

Day 10:

- **LAB DAY: Assigning Blogging Project (45-60 Minutes)**
 - Blogging - the big picture (Optional: Ryan Bretag and Stephanie Bitter co-present with teacher)
 - 20 Types of Blog Handout
 - Setting up Blogger Account
 - Log in to Google
 - Click on my account, Click on Blogger
 - Demo: How to sign in to Blogger and be able to post to the blog
 - Add or Create a blog
 - For Class Blogs: Sign students up in Blogger to give them permission to be an author
 - Class Blogs: Have students sign up for posting dates
 - Create and post handout on ToStu on "How to" (Posting, links, video)
 - Discuss Blog Writing and the rubric

Day 11+

- **Classroom Activity: Show blog(s) in class.**
 - Showcase great examples of blogs
 - Answer any questions, review creating blogs
- **Grading Class or Individual Blogs or Blog Posts**